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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

October 9, 2019

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman
United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Risch:

We write regarding this Committee's critical oversight role over matters of foreign policy. Over the last week, serious allegations have arisen regarding the President's interactions with President Zelensky involving U.S. foreign assistance and a key bilateral relationship. As the American public continues to understand and examine the facts for themselves, we write to ensure that this Committee does the same.

The Foreign Relations Committee has an obligation to examine the serious questions raised by these events. As the Committee charged with jurisdiction over U.S. foreign policy, it is incumbent on us to understand fully all the facts, including the circumstances surrounding the delay in U.S. security assistance to Ukraine, the early departure of the U.S. ambassador to Kyiv, the Department of State's role in these matters, as well as the implications these events may have on U.S.-Ukraine relations, and U.S. foreign policy more broadly. Recent revelations that the Secretary of State himself listened in on the President's July 25 call with President Zelensky adds to questions about the Department's role and only underscores the Committee's need to conduct oversight.

To that end, we call on you to promptly convene hearings and use all available Committee tools to fully examine these matters. At a minimum, this must include hearings with the Secretary of State as well as key Department officials who were involved in Ukraine policy or had interactions with or related to Ukrainian officials.

We look forward to working with you on a bipartisan basis to fulfill this Committee's oversight role, and to continued engagement on these issues.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
Ranking Member



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



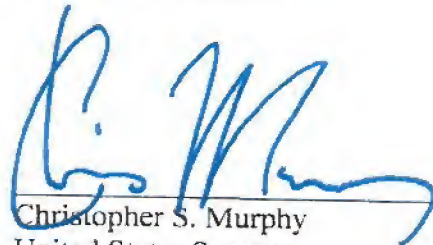
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



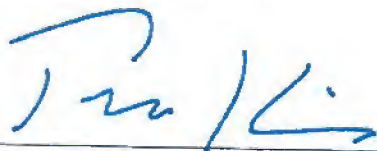
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



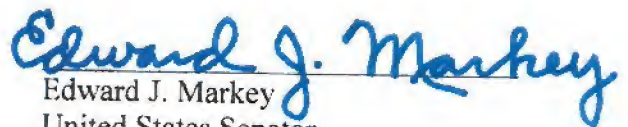
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



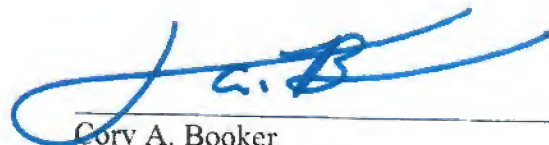
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



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